wherein the said ink-only label, when applied to a substrate, has a water permeability coefficient, as defined herein, which is sufficient to enable fast removal of the label from the substrate with water or an aqueous alkaline solution, without destructive treatment of the said substrate.

26. Container according to claim 25, wherein a cover layer is applied over the ink-only label which cover layer comprises an acrylic wax.

27. Container according to claim 25, comprising an application surface for receiving the label which application surface has a surface tension of at least 60 Ergs/cm^2.

28. Container according to claim 25, the label on the container having a pencil hardness between 1N and 7N in its dry state and a pencil hardness less than O.5N after a soaking time between 1 and 15 minutes in water of 20°C.

29. Container according to claim 25, wherein the label on the container has a water uptake value after 3 hours greater than 1 and below 75 g/m^2, preferably about 5 g/m^2.

30. Container according to claim 25, the container having been selected from the group consisting of plastic crates, plastic bottles and glass bottles.

31. Process for applying a label to a container, said process comprising providing a transfer label, said transfer label comprising a backing layer and a transfer layer which is releasably attached to the backing layer, said transfer layer comprising an ink-only label, said ink-only label at least consisting of an adhesive layer, an ink-only image layer and optionally a protective layer, wherein the said ink-only label, when applied to a substrate, has a water permeability coefficient, as defined herein, which is sufficient to enable fast removal of the label from the substrate with water or an aqueous alkaline solution, without destructive treatment of the said substrate, said process further comprising the step of transferring the ink-only label to at least one surface of the container.

32. Process according to claim 31, wherein the cover layer is attached upon or

after attaching the ink-only label to the container.

33. Process according to claim 31, wherein the label, optionally in combination with the cover layer, has been heat-treated after application to the container at a temperature between 40°C and 100°C.

34. Method of washing a container according to claim 25, comprising the steps of:

- placing the container in an aqueous soaking solution during a soaking time not longer than 10 min, preferably not longer than 1 minute, the temperature of the soaking solution being below 100°C, preferably below 70°C, while causing turbulence in the soaking solution such that the label breaks up,
- pumping the soaking solution through a sieve and collecting the piece of the label on the sieve,
- periodically, preferably continuously, cleaning the sieve by collection and removal of the label pieces.

35. Method according to claim 34, wherein the openings of the sieve are between 1 mm and 10 mm, preferably about 2 mm.

36. Method according to claim 34, comprising the step of impingement of water jets on the container before and/or after placing the container in the soaking solution.

37. Method according to claim 34, wherein the soaking solution comprises between 0.1 and 5% by weight, preferably O.5% NaOH.

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 have been cancelled and new claims 25-37 have been added so it is clear what claims are to be examined. Claims 25-37 correspond to Claims 13-25 which were restricted out in the parent case. The specification is being amended as it was in the parent case.